Department of State

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USAREUR HEIDELBERG

Origin

Info

Following is excerpt from Secretary's press conference today dealing with

helicopter and personnel held by East Germans:

QUOTE Question. Mr. Secretary, is the United States prepared to deal with

East Germany in trying to procure the release of the nine Army men and the

helicopter forced down in Communist Germany?

Answer. The normal procedure which heretofore has been followed, and

followed successfully I think on both sides, has been that in the case of

military people we deal through the military authorities of the occupying powers.

But when it comes to getting Americans out of a country, we don't stand on

ceremony we deal with any people to get them out. I may say that that does

not involve any recognition. We have been getting Americans out of Communist

China not with the completeness or rapidity that we had hoped, but we have been

getting them out through dealing with the Chinese Communists. There was a

report today that I just saw as I came down here that two more have been

released. I hope that's true. When you have people kidnapped, you deal with

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Clearances:

P   Mr. Anderson

RM

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

GER — Raymond E. Lisle

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the kidnappers. If the authorities don't want to deal with this matter through the established channels which have been operating for the past twelve years, we will deal with them in whatever ways necessary, but with the clear understanding that we deal with a practical situation and that it does not carry any implication at all of recognition. UNQUOTE

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